

Dover Plains, NY – U.S. Representative John Hall (D-NY19) joined with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Chief Eugene Brickman and Town of Dover Supervisor Jill Way today to kickoff an Army Corps reconnaissance study of the Ten Mile River Watershed.

Standing in Ketcham Park in Dover Plains with evidence of the severe damage from this April's storm still visible in the form of a house falling into the river across the embankment, Hall said "As the banks have overflowed and the Ten-Mile has flooded, the runoff has led to erosion, road washouts, property damage, and the disruption of day to day activities in surrounding communities. If recent trends are any indication, we can only expect the severity of these weather events to intensify, and their frequency to increase. To keep these events from threatening people's homes, damaging local commerce, and making our roads impassable, we need to take action to make sure that we can manage our water resources and protect against future floods."

Severe floods have repeatedly hit the area over the past several years including storms in October 2005 and the most recent Nor'Easter storm of April 2007, resulting in erosion, road washouts and extensive damage to homes and personal property. The Town of Dover experienced over \$4 million in road and property damage due to the last two floods. This study will be the first study of the Ten Mile River Watershed conducted by the Corps of Engineers.

During storm events, flooding and erosion, and resultant road washouts, occur along the Ten Mile River. An Army Corps reconnaissance study of the Ten Mile River Watershed is necessary to determine what flood protection is advisable for areas within the 210-square mile watershed. In addition to flood prevention, the study will also evaluate ecosystem restoration.

"Going forward from today, the Corps will study the Ten-Mile River watershed to look at what measures we can take to prevent flooding and protect the Towns of Dover and Amenia," said Hall. "The action taken by the Corps will pave the way for projects that can stop the flooding, protect shorelines, restore ecosystems, and prevent dangerous erosion. The Ten-Mile River watershed needs to be looked at as a whole entity to come up with a strategy that will help us enjoy our local waterways without having to look over our shoulders every time there's a strong rain."

The Army Corps is embarking on four month long study of the watershed, engaging in aggressive fieldwork and community outreach to get a firm grasp on the scope of the problems that need to be fixed in the watershed and the solutions that will allow them to achieve their goals. This process is critical in setting the stage for the full scope of economic and technical planning that will be needed to complete flood prevention activities.

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